

but it began then as far as my knowledge was concerned, was that we took this set of judicial statistics that the judges gave us and when any particular district came to the top of the list, we gave them a new judge, and we did this without really looking as close as I think we should have at redistricting as opposed to simply adding another judge. This year in Lancaster County, my very own Lancaster County, we are about to add a third judge now in the last two years. That has increased the number of judges in the state by three, even though for the past five years the overall workload in the judicial districts in this state has not increased. What is happening is that the population in the state is shifting, and what we need now is some redistricting. The Supreme Court and the Judges Association is now in a position where they are very eager to go forward with some redistricting. They have agreed to some...to a study of redistricting. They have agreed to coming back to the Legislature with a plan by next November for redistricting. And what they have requested and what we would like to see done is for an independent group of people from the National Law Center in Washington, who do this kind of work, to come in and assist them with principles of redistricting and with an outside unprejudiced viewpoint as to the proper way to redistrict. Adding one judge cost us some place in the neighborhood of \$100,000. If we do not redistrict, Omaha will be in next year or the year after for sure. Sarpy County will be in shortly. And we will be adding more judges without an overall workload. So what we need to do is anticipate increased workloads in Omaha and Sarpy County by redistricting now and saving the state in the next few years I think several hundred thousand dollars. So the request is for \$25,000 to have a redistricting study done this next summer and fall for the State of Nebraska District Courts and County Courts. Thank you. I would be glad to answer any questions that I may have left in your minds.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, the purpose of this as stated by Senator Beutler is for the purpose of having hearings and studies to redistrict the District judges in the state. We thought that perhaps there was some money in the Supreme Court Justice's budget that we could borrow from him or transfer from their budget to ours. But, Senator Warner, is it true that that money was not there? Senator Warner, was it true that that \$25,000 was not in the Supreme Court Justice budget so that it could be transferred?

SENATOR WARNER: I didn't catch the first part of it, Senator, I'm sorry.